

# NATURE NOTE BOOK

NATURE NOTE BOOK  
of an OVERSTON SCHOOL PUPIL.

CMC 60

CMC 60.1  
p1C460

Margaret Hickling

Overstone School

1934 - 1936

May 11<sup>th</sup>

Today has been very warm, the trees are a mass of foliage. The flowers peeping out of the hedge row, among which were ground ivy, celandine, and germander speedwell, looked very gay amongst the green grass. The birds were singing in the trees, and we found the nests of a hedge-sparrow, chaffinch and thrush.

---

May 18<sup>th</sup>

Today has been fairly warm, Lords and Ladies are out in several places along the hedge row. Wood pigeons, wood-peckers and cuckoos were both seen and heard. Wood pigeon's nests are to be seen in nearly every tree, and Jackdaws are even too plentiful as they do so much damage.

---

# Summer Term

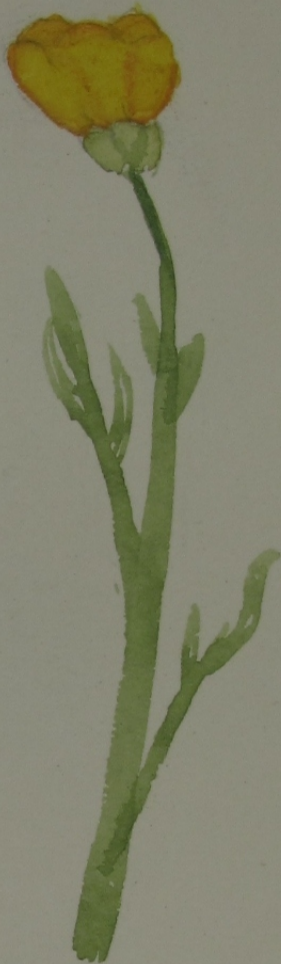
1934



Ground Ivy  
May 11<sup>th</sup>



Groundsel  
May 13<sup>th</sup>



Buttercup  
May 18<sup>th</sup>

May 21<sup>st</sup>

Today we went a very interesting Nature walk. We Found several birds nests, and brought them back in perfect condition.

They were blackbird's, thrushes, wren's and chaffinches; in each case the birds had flown, and in several nests the shells could still be seen. Amongst the new flowers were, funitary, meadow saxifrage, and ~~blackberry~~ strawberry

---

June 1<sup>st</sup>.

Today we went a nature walk, and Found many new flowers, amongst which were deadly nightshade and wood sanicle. We also found a stick caterpillar, a dragon fly and a millipede.

---

June: 8<sup>th</sup>

Everything is looking very fresh and green after last night's rain. There is a slight breeze rustling the leaves, which are still wet. We have found several nests, but in most cases the birds had already flown. We

p16cm60

saw several little beaks peeping out of a chaffinch's nest.

---

June 9<sup>th</sup>

There has been a nest outside the farm room window, since the beginning of term, but we think it must be deserted, as there has been no sign of any birds in it. It is quite small, and situated about half way up the tree.

---

June 11<sup>th</sup>

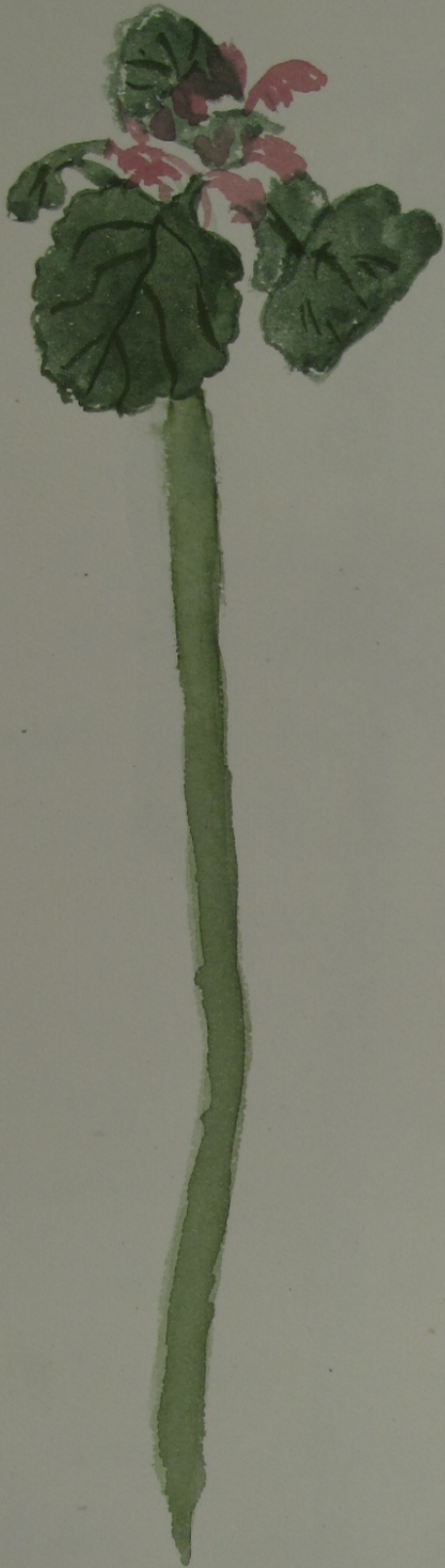
Today we went on an interesting nature walk, and found lots of new flowers, among which were Herb Robert, Procrumbent pearlwort, and three nerved sandwort. We saw some lovely dragon flies, and a beautifully coloured ladybird. We saw a coot fly out from among the rushes, and while looking for its nest, a sweet little baby frog hopped out. We found the coot's nest, and there was one egg in it. We found two more coot's nests, one

P7CMC60



Bluebell

May 24<sup>th</sup>



Red Dead nettle  
June 1<sup>st</sup>



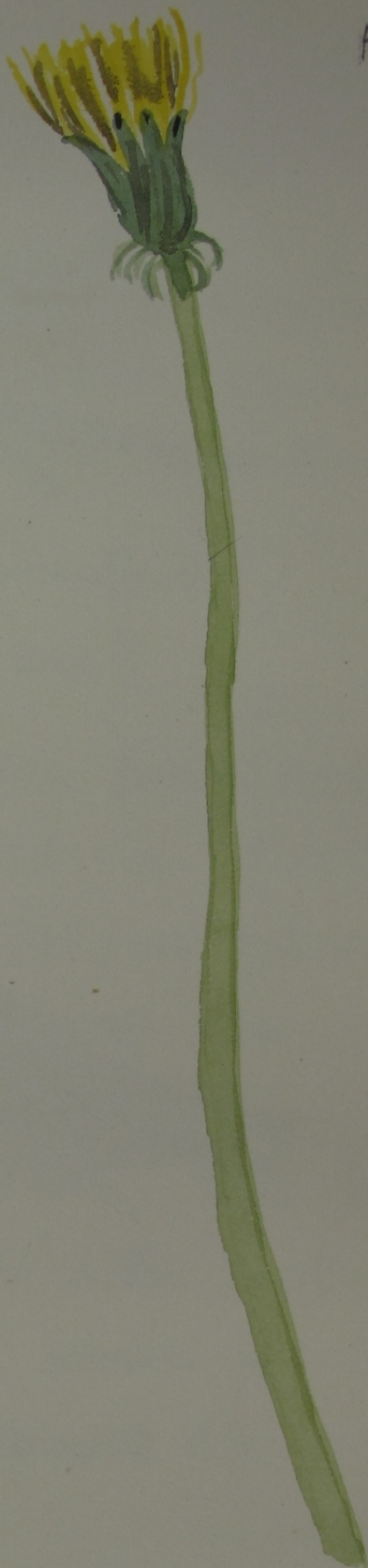
Sorrel  
May 25<sup>th</sup>

CMC60

P9 CMC60



Hop Trefoil  
July 6<sup>th</sup>



Dandelion  
June 1<sup>st</sup>



lifesize  
Chaffinch and egg  
June 1<sup>st</sup>



Woodlark and lifesize egg  
June 8<sup>th</sup>

contained one egg, and the other was empty. We also found an empty grebe's nest. We saw a dabchick and a moor hen on the lake.

---

June 16<sup>th</sup>

Today, looking out of the form-room window about twelve o'clock, we saw a lovely little grey squirrel, he stopped for a moment so that we had a splendid ~~the~~ view of him, and then he darted away.

On the way up to the works, one of the men showed us a sweet little baby wagtail we he had caught flying about in the stables. We brought it up to the form-room and then let it go.

June 20<sup>th</sup>

This morning I heard some tiny chirps outside the Formroom window, and looking out I saw a baby chaffinch in the grass.

A few moments later, the mother bird flew down to it with some food in her beak,

the baby opened its mouth and the mother put the food into it. This continued for some time, then the mother flew away; a few moments later the father bird appeared, and started feeding the baby again, then he too flew away.

They did not come back for some time, and at last the baby hopped away, just after this the mother bird came back, and looked for the baby in the place where she had left it, not ~~for~~ finding it there, she hopped away into the undergrowth, in the direction that it had gone.

---

July 13<sup>th</sup>

On Wednesday we went to Stratford-on-Avon, on the way we saw a whole herd of Fallow deer, close to the road, under the trees. They were small and spotted, and seemed quite tame. We also saw several new flowers



Annual Meadow Grass

June 15<sup>th</sup>

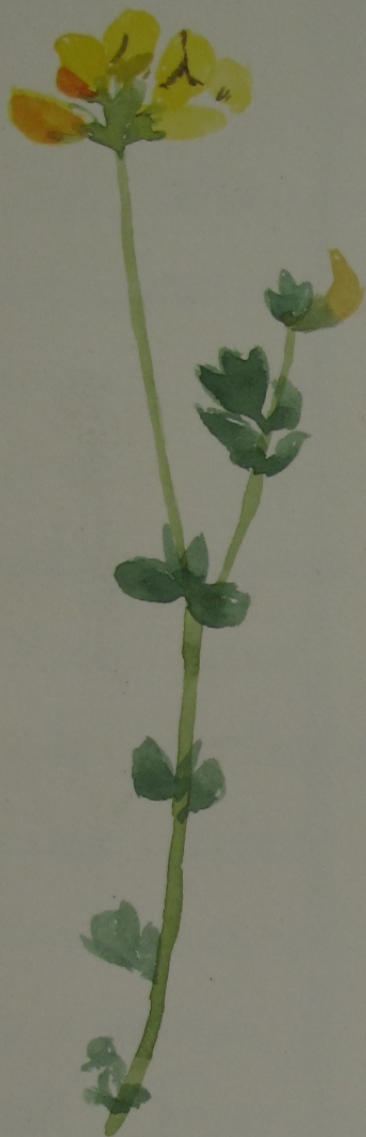


Plantain

June 15<sup>th</sup>

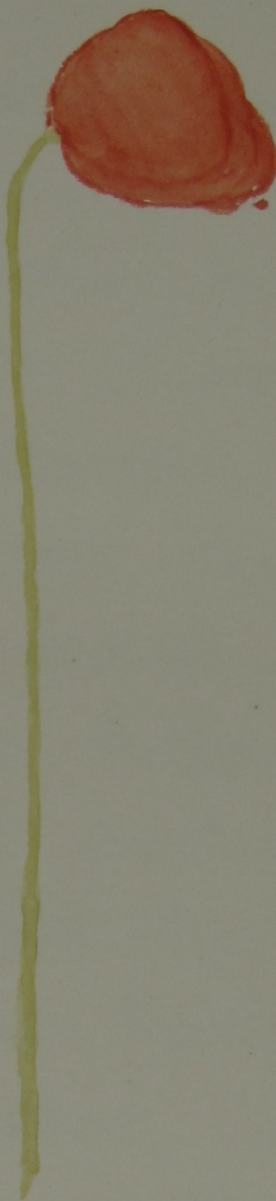
P13CM60

P14CMC60



Birds Foot Trefoil

June 15<sup>th</sup>



Poppy

June 29<sup>th</sup>

by the roadside.

---

July 13<sup>th</sup>

This morning we examined some cells under the microscope. Each cell had a nucleus in the centre, this was surrounded by protoplasm, and the whole encased in a cell wall, made of cellulose.

---



Bee.



Dragon Fly



Dragonfly case



Centipede



Moth



Baby Grasshopper.



Catapillar



Moth.

June 28<sup>th</sup>



Blue Tit  
July 6<sup>th</sup>



Robin  
July 13<sup>th</sup>



Blue Tit's Egg  
July 14<sup>th</sup>



Robin's Egg  
July 14<sup>th</sup>



Mallard  
July 20<sup>th</sup>

# SUMMER HOLIDAYS



1934

## Sea-side



Common Toadflax

August 20<sup>th</sup>

## Flowers

P19CMC60



Common Centaury

August 19<sup>th</sup>

<u>Name</u>	<u>Where Found</u>	Natural Order <u>Family</u>
Common Centaury	On the sand-hills, St. Annes.	Gentianeae
Toad Flax	On the sand-hills	Scrophularine <sup>ae</sup>
Wild Thyme	Near the sandhills	Labiatae
Rest Harrow	In a field	Leguminosae
Tansy	In a sandy field	Compositae
Evening Primrose	On all the sandhills	Oenothera
Harebell	On the old golf-links	Campanulaceae
Haresfoot Trefoil	On the Sand-hills	Leguminosae
Corn Chamomile	On the sand-hills	Compositae
Milfoil	In a waste field	Compositae
Wild pansy	On the old golf-links	Violaceae
Bladder Campion	On the sand-hills	Caryophylleae
Wild mustard	In a waste field	Cruciferae
Agrimony	On the sand-hills	Rosaceae
Field scabious	In a field	Dipsaceae
Tormentil	On the old golf-links	Rosaceae
Sea pink	On the sand-hills	Plumbagineae
Ragwort	On waste ground	Compositae
Sea Holly	On the sand-hills	Umbelliferae
Sea milkwort	On the sandhills	Primulaceae
Bramble	In waste fields	Rosaceae
Scentless Mayweed	In waste fields	Compositae

<u>Name</u>	<u>Where Found</u>	<u>Family</u>
<sup>(Ladys)</sup> Yellow Bedstraw	In a Field	Galium verum
<sup>(Hedge)</sup> White Bedstraw	In a Field	Galium mollugo
Lousewort	On the golf links	Scrophulariaceae
Milkwort	On the grassy shore near Silloth	Polygalaceae
Horsetail	In a wood	Equisetaceae
Eyebright	on the grassy shore	Scrophulariaceae
Tamarisk	on the sandhills	Tamariscineae
Sea Lavender	on the sandhills	Plumbaginaceae
Sea Sedge	on the sandhills	Cyperaceae
Wall Lettuce	on a grassy track	Compositae
Gorse	on the old golf links	Leguminosae
Whortleberry	on a grassy track.	Ericaceae

### Notes on Nature during a fortnight at St. Annes

Aug: 18<sup>th</sup>

I went to St. Annes, arriving in the evening, the first flower that impressed me, was the Evening Primrose. It is a yellow flower, and does not in any way resemble the ordinary primrose. The plant grows from two to three feet high, and <sup>the flower</sup> opens in the evening.



Tansy

August 21<sup>st</sup>



Wild Thyme

August 22<sup>nd</sup>



Harebell  
August 23<sup>rd</sup>



Milkwort  
August 24<sup>th</sup>

There were masses of these Evening Primroses covering the fields, golf-links, and sand hills. They have a lovely scent and in the evening the moths hover over them. In the day time the plant is hardly noticed.

---

Aug: 19<sup>th</sup>

Today has been very warm and sunny, with just a slight breeze to make it pleasant to sit in the garden. We went to church in the evening, across the old golf-links. There were a few little harebells nestling in the grass, but they were mostly over. Here and there, were patches of wild thyme and the little church had a mass of yellow gorse behind it.

---

Aug: 20<sup>th</sup>

When I woke this morning the sky was very blue and the sun was shining brightly. I went for a walk across the fields and down to the shore.

and hardly noticed the primroses, which were so conspicuous the evening before. I noticed the yellowoadflax, and the pink centaury which grows in great abundance. About eleven o'clock the sky grew hazy and black clouds covered the sun. Soon big drops of rain fell and a strong wind blew, with increasing force. It has rained steadily all afternoon, and the wind is <sup>still</sup> very cold and strong.

---

Aug: 21<sup>st</sup>

Today is still very wet and windy, though there have <sup>been</sup> some bright intervals. The garden looks almost ruined and some beautiful deep blue gladiolas are broken down. The dalia's which were a mass of red and yellow yesterday, are all ruined.

---



Hares-Foot Trefoil  
August 25<sup>th</sup>

P27CM60



Field Scabious

August 26<sup>th</sup>



Sea Lavender

August 26<sup>th</sup>

P29MC60



Wild Pansy

August 27<sup>th</sup>

Aug 22<sup>nd</sup>

Today has been warm and sunny, with hardly a breath of wind. The birds are busy in the garden, and one cheeky little sparrow was in the bird bath about five minutes, and wouldn't let anyone else have a turn! There was also a sweet little wagtail bobbing up and down on the wet grass.

---

Aug: 23<sup>rd</sup>

Today has been sunny, but there is a strong west wind, blowing from the sea. On my way down to bathe, I saw big bushes of silver-grey sea-holly and little clumps of haresfoot trefoil. Haresfoot trefoil is soft and furry, and a pretty blue grey colour. Everywhere on the sand-hills are clumps of yellow Tansy and Ragwort.

---

Aug 24<sup>th</sup>

Today, like yesterday, has been sunny, but there is still the strong wind. In the garden I watched a sweet bird scene. The mother and baby bird<sup>(chaffinches)</sup> were both perched on some trellis work, so that I had a beautiful view. The mother bird flew away and came back with some food which she put in her baby's ~~mouth~~ mouth; then she flew away for more. I ran into the house to get my camera, but when I returned they had both gone.

---

Aug: 25<sup>th</sup>

Today has been very hot, and there has been no wind. We went for a long walk along the sandhills and saw several more flowers, among which were Rest-harrow Bladder Campion, and Agrimony. The Rest Harrow is a small pink flower

182 CHC60



Tormentil

August 27<sup>th</sup>

P33CMC60



Sea Pink

August 28<sup>th</sup>

and is very common on the sand-hills. Bladder-campion is a fairly large, white flower; the united sepals form a swollen bladdery-looking calyx, hence the name Bladder-campion. Agrimony is a very pretty little plant each flower resembles a little golden star; they grow in spikes.

Aug 26<sup>th</sup>

Today has been very hot. As it ~~was~~<sup>is</sup> Sunday, we have not been anywhere in particular. The bees have been busy in the garden. This evening we saw flocks of sea-gulls flying back to the coast after a day in the cornfields.

Aug 27<sup>th</sup>

Today began with brilliant sunshine, "too good to last," and it did not last! About ten o'clock the sky got grew clouded, and soon after that it

started to rain, and has not stopped yet. In spite of the rain, one little sparrow insisted on having his daily bath!

---

Aug 28<sup>th</sup>

Today has been showery and very windy. I went for a walk along the shore and found clumps of Thrift or Sea-pink. I also found sea-milkwort. Sea-milkwort ~~is~~ is quite different from the ordinary milkwort. It is pink, whereas milkwort is blue or purple. The natural order of sea milkwort is Primulaceae, whereas milkwort is Polygaleae.

---

Aug 29<sup>th</sup>

Today has again been showery, and windy. I went for a ramble on the old golf links, and found several new flowers. Brambles cover the

P36CM60



Sea Milkwort

August 29<sup>th</sup>

P37CM60



Agrimony

August 30<sup>th</sup>

golf links, but the berries have mostly been picked. Here and there were sweet little wild pansies, and also the little yellow Tormentil, which closely resembles the Barren Strawberry, except in colour.

---

Aug 30<sup>th</sup>

Today has been warm and sunny, with much less wind. The garden seems to have recovered from last week's storm. The dahlias are once more a mass of colour. Most of the apples have been blown off the trees and have been badly pecked by the birds. The beans are also mostly ruined, and whereas some years we have had as much as forty or fifty pounds of beans, this year we have only had ten.

---

Aug: 31<sup>st</sup>

Today has again been warm and sunny. We found a nest of

field-mice in the garden, they are such pretty little creatures, but they do a lot of harm in the garden. The birds are very lively, every morning we hear them in the chimney; some time ago a whole nest fell down into the fire place.

---

Sept 1<sup>st</sup>

As today is ~~the~~ my last day but one, I went for a long walk. I saw lots of Corn Chamomile and Mulfoil; ~~and~~ some of the fields were covered with Wild Mustard. Here and there were field scabious which showed up blue, against the green grass. I also found scentless Mayweed, Ladies and Hedge Bedstraw, and Lousewort. The weather was warm and sunny and it was altogether a perfect day.

---

MC 60

P40CMC60



Sea Holly

August 31<sup>st</sup>

P41 CMC60



Evening Primrose

September 1<sup>st</sup>

Sept: 2<sup>nd</sup>

Today has again been warm and sunny. We did not go out ~~today~~, but just sat in the garden. I saw flocks of swallows congregating on the telegraph wires, as we went to church; and the sight of the swallows reminded us that Summer is nearly over, and it is already almost Autumn.

---

Notes made during a weekend  
near Silloth.

Sept: 8<sup>th</sup>

Today has been fine but windy. This morning we went for a long walk through the woods. The way to the woods is up a long grassy track. On the way we found the tiny blue Milkwort, All along the edge were Blackberries, just ripening, and Whortleberries.

or Bilberries. We also found the moss *Polytrichum*, which feels beautifully soft. As we neared the top a little rabbit ~~or~~ scuttled out of the undergrowth. When we got into the woods we saw more interesting things. Huge red Eoadstools, and Puff-balls grew by the edge of the path. We just happened to stand still for a moment, and then I saw a red squirrel dart up a pine tree. It was very inconspicuous against the reddish trunk of the tree. We saw huge horse tails, and other <sup>pieces of</sup> interesting nature.

---

Sept 9<sup>th</sup>

Today we went for a long walk along the shore. We found the tiny Eyebright, and also Tamarisk, Sea Lavender, Sea Sedge, and Wall Lettuce. Tomorrow we return



Eyebright

September 8<sup>th</sup>

P45CHC60



Squirrel

home, by an early train. So ends my holiday record.

"The mellow year is hastening to its close;  
The little birds have almost sung their last,  
Their small notes twitter in the dreary blast-  
That shrill-piped harbinger of early snows;  
The patient beauty of the scentless rose,  
Of with the morn's hoar crystal quaintly  
  glassed,  
Hangs a pale mourner for the summer past,  
And makes a little summer where it grows;  
In the chill sunbeam of the faint brief day  
The dusky waters shudder as they shine  
The russet leaves obstruct the straggling  
  way  
Of oozy brooks which no deep banks define;  
And the gaunt woods in ragged scant  
  array  
Wrap their old limbs with sombre ivy-twine."

Hartley Coleridge

Autumn Term 1934Oct: ~~24~~<sup>25</sup>

On Tuesday we went a German walk, we saw a sweet little grey squirrel on the ground, but Binkie saw it too, and it darted up a tree. In the evening we saw another squirrel on the track leading down to the lake.

---

Nov: 8<sup>th</sup>

Yesterday we went a very interesting Nature Walk. Going down the Billing Track, we noticed that all the young elm trees were coated with a thick growth of cork, this may be to protect the tree, or else some sort of disease.

We found the tips of the wild Field rose, and also those of the Dog Rose. The field rose tips are round, and smaller than those of the dog rose. We <sup>found</sup> saw the Guelder rose, Buckthorn berries, and snow-berries.

A  
U  
T  
U  
M  
N  
I  
9  
3  
4  
T  
E  
R  
M

P49CHC60



Cross Spider.  
Oct: 4<sup>th</sup>



Oak Leaf  
Oct: 4<sup>th</sup>